March 3, 1998

Legislative Update

The Iowa Legislature sets a number of deadlines for itself to make sure that "must do" issues are not lost in the flood of papers that amass early in session.   These deadlines -- called funnels -- are established to continually narrow the scope of legislation that is eligible for consideration. The first funnel was Friday, February 27, when all House bills must be voted out of House committees and all Senate bills must be voted out of Senate committees. Any bill that did not get out of committee by Friday was dead for the session (no further action may be taken on the bill). Spending and tax bills, and bills sponsored by leadership, are the only bills exempt from this funnel.

The good news is the two bills that impact IOWAccess passed out of committee this week -- and are therefore still alive.

IOWAccess bill
The bill passed unanimously out of the House Commerce-Regulation Committee under the expert guidance of Rep. Libby Jacobs (R-West Des Moines). Rep. Jacobs will manage the bill during debate in the House. The bill creates the IOWAccess Advisory Council to review and prioritize electronic transactions and information, and specifies that each agency will determine whether a record is public or confidential (in accordance with internal rules and the Freedom of Information Act). The bill also earmarks $1 of the $5 motor vehicle record fee to support the management, maintenance, and development of the IOWAccess network. The bill will be redrafted and given a new number, and then will be placed on the House Calendar for debate.

Digital Signatures bill
This bill, referred to as the Electronic Commerce Security Act, establishes a new code section dealing with electronic commerce and digital signatures. The bill -- House File 2474 -- defines electronic records as an acceptable form of commerce; defines the terms of electronic commerce, including digital signatures and security; authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to issue certificates regarding the security of technology; makes it a crime to misuse public keys or certificates; and authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to adopt rules regarding electronic security. This bill passed out of the House Commerce-Regulation Committee earlier in the week, and is also on the House Calendar.

Just a note -- the Legislature will be debating bills all week in an attempt to move bills off their calendars in time to meet the next funnel deadline. By the second funnel (March 20), all House bills need to be voted out of Senate committees, and all Senate bills need to be voted out of House committees. At last count, there were 96 bills on the House Calendar and 121 on the

Senate Calendar. This number did not include bills that passed out of committee on Thursday -- so both the House and Senate will be hurriedly debating bills this week. Look for an update next week on the status of these two bills.

The full text of the IOWAccess and Digital Signatures bills can be viewed from the IOWAccess web page (www.state.ia.us/iowaccess/index.htm).

Projects Update

Each week this section of the update will focus only on project information and developments since the last update. All project teams continue to work diligently to ensure full implementation by July 1, 1998. If you have questions regarding a specific project, please feel free to call the IOWAccess staff at 515/243-2000.

Project 1: IOWAccess Network

Project 1 co-leads have been working with Iowa Interactive to complete the contract for the initial development of the IOWAccess Network. The network will be slightly behind schedule for development, but will meet the July 1 deadline for being operational. The team will meet again in March, at a date and time to be announced, pending the contract negotiations.

Project 10: Electronic Commerce Business Plan

The team met with KPMG on February 25 to outline the content of the business plan. The team used some survey responses received from various government agency decision-makers. These responses were very helpful, but the team felt there should be more input from all levels of government and the private sector. The decision was made to electronically mail all the participants of the IOWAccess project. These surveys should be returned by March 11. The team hopes to have a second draft of the plan by the middle of March for feedback from the Citizen's Committee.

The final draft copy will be reviewed at the next meeting on March 27 and the final plan should be available by March 31.

Project 13: Community Resource Directory Pilot

The March 19 team meeting and demo is scheduled for 9:00 - noon. ICN sites have been secured in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Atlantic, and Carroll.

Meetings Schedule

Steering Committee
Friday, March 20
9:00 am - Noon
US Veterans Affairs

Citizens Council
Friday, April 17
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Site TBA

Project Leads
Wednesday, March 18
9:30 - 11:30 am
Iowa Department of Economic Development - remote ICN connections available

Project 1: IOWAccess Network
Tuesday, March 24
9:30 - 11:30 am
Site TBA

Tuesday, May 19
1:30 - 3:30 pm
Site TBA

Project 6: Online Housing and Finance Services
Friday, March 13 (tentative)
10:00 am - Noon
Iowa Department of Economic Development

Project 7: First Stop Business License Center, Professional Licensing Center & Regulation Guide
Wednesday, March 11
10:00 am - Noon
Iowa Department of Economic Development

Wednesday, May 13
10:00 am - Noon
Iowa Department of Economic Development

Wednesday, July 8
10:00 am - Noon
Iowa Department of Economic Development

Project 8: GIS
Monday, March 30
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Des Moines, Federal Building – remote ICN connections available

Project 9: STAWRS
Thursday, March 19 (tentative)

1:30 - 3:30 pm
Iowa Department of Employment Services - remote ICN connections
available

Thursday, April 16
1:30 - 3:30 pm
Iowa Department of Employment Services - remote ICN connections
available

Project 11: Environmental Permitting
Tuesday, March 3
2:30 - 4:30 pm
Sites TBA

Project 13: Community Resource Directory Pilot
Demonstration of Galileo system
Thursday, March 19
9:00 am - Noon
Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Atlantic, and Carroll

Project 14: Integrated Client Information for Mental Health Services
CPC and DHS pilot training meeting
Tuesday, March 10
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Iowa State Association of Counties